Amendments to the Claims

Please amend previously amended Claim 1 as indicated below:

1. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic composition that is melt-processable consisting essentially of (a) from 20 to 45 weight percent aliphatic, mono-functional organic acid(s) having fewer than 36 carbon atoms or salt(s) thereof; and (b) ethylene, C_3 to C_8 α,β ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid copolymer(s) or melt-processible ionomer(s) thereof, wherein greater than 90% of all the acid of (a) and (b) is neutralized by concurrently or subsequently adding to the melt blend of (a) and (b) an amount of a cation source necessary to obtain the greater than 90% neutralization.

2. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein about 100% of the acid in (a) and (b) is neutralized.

3. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein an amount of cation source in excess of the amount required to neutralize 100% of the acid in (a) and (b) is used to neutralize the acid in (a) and (b).

4. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the organic acid is one or more C_6 to C_{26} organic acids.

5. (Original) The composition of claim 4 wherein the organic acid is one or more C_6 to C_{18} organic acids.

6. (Original) The composition of claim 5 wherein the organic acid is one or more of C_6 to C_{12} organic acids,

7. (Previously Amended) A process to make a highly-neutralized, melt-processable ethylene copolymer comprising the steps of

(a) Melt-blending an ethylene α,β ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid copolymer or a melt-processable ionomer thereof with an organic acid or a salt of organic acid, and

(b) Concurrently or subsequently adding cation source in an amount in excess of the amount necessary to neutralize about 100% of all the acid moieties of the acid copolymer or ionomer thereof and the organic acid or salt thereof.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Added and Amended) A thermoplastic melt processable composition formed according to the process of claim 7, wherein said organic acid or salt of an organic acid is present at 20 to 45 weight percent.